



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

RICHARD L MARSH
4116 E LATOKA
SPRINGFIELD MO 65809

COPY MAILED

APR 27 2005

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| In re Application | : | DECISION ON APPLICATION |
| Straub, et al. | : | FOR |
| Application No. 09/694,136 | : | PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT |
| Filed: October 23, 2000 | : | AND PETITION FOR |
| Attorney Docket No. 20003 | : | RECOVERY OF FEES |

This is a decision on the "PETITION FOR RECOVERY OF FEES & RESETTING OF PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT," filed March 27, 2003.

The application for patent term adjustment under § 1.705(b) is **DISMISSED AS UNTIMELY FILED.**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.705(b), an application for patent term adjustment may not be filed earlier than the date of mailing of the Notice of Allowance. As no Notice of Allowance has yet been mailed in the instant application, the issue is not ripe at this time.

Furthermore, applicants, through their agent of record, have requested that the fee for the RCE filed on February 21, 2003 be waived.

It is the applicant's responsibility to take the necessary action in an application under a final Office action to provide a complete reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113. An applicant should not permit the maximum extendable statutory period for reply to a

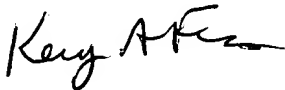
final Office action to expire while awaiting a Notice of Allowance or other action.¹

An applicant may not rely upon late receipt of an advisory action to establish that the delay was unavoidable. 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.116 and 1.135(b) are manifest that proceedings concerning an amendment after final rejection will not operate to avoid abandonment of the application in the absence of a timely and proper appeal. An applicant should not wait to take action until receipt of an advisory action which might not even be mailed until more than six months after the mailing of the final Office action.

Accordingly, the petition for recovery of fees is **DISMISSED**.

The application file is being forwarded to Group Art Unit for examination of the Appeal Brief filed July 26, 2004.

Telephone inquiries specific to this matter should be directed to Cliff Congo, Petitions Attorney, at (703) 305-0272.



Karin Ferriter
Senior Legal Advisor
Office of Patent Legal Administration
Office of Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy

1. See MPEP 711.03(c) (III) (C) (2).